

TESTIMONY OF Jamie L. Mills
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Testimony supporting Governor's Bill No. 949

Good afternoon Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and distinguished Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Governor's Bill No.949, "ACC Improving Data Security and Agency Effectiveness".

The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management is required by statute to determine the effectiveness of state policies and operations and to make recommendations and assist in implementing improvements to the delivery of state services. This proposal updates existing policies and procedures to manage, access and secure executive branch agency data so the Secretary can play that role and better evaluate state functions.

However, along with this comes the important responsibility to protect against unauthorized disclosure of information collected and maintained by state agencies that is confidential and private.

This bill would allow us to do that – it would enable the use of state data for analysis and research while protecting the privacy of our citizens.

Background

Rapid changes in technology provide significant opportunities to improve outcomes and deepen our understanding of how to most effectively deliver high quality services. The state will be able to use data to analyze the way in which programs and systems are working and to link data from different programs and agencies for analysis and review. Doing this with information from across state agencies – with secure applications that ensure privacy -- will let OPM and others use state data to inform policy making across agencies and over time.

Section 4 of this bill updates the Secretary of OPM's existing functions and powers to reflect modern information technology. These changes impact how executive branch agencies collect and store data, protect the confidentiality of data, and how the Secretary evaluates state programs or informs the development of policies that are effective, efficient and the best use of state resources.

Section 4(b) directs the Secretary to develop a program to access, link, analyze, and share data maintained by executive branch agencies and respond to research requests involving such data.

Section 4(c) (1) requires the Secretary to establish policies and procedures to review and respond to data queries that ensure legal compliance, protect the privacy and confidentiality of protected data, and is based on sound research design principles. Priority will be given to data requests

which seek to measure outcomes of state funded programs or that may aid in the development of more effective or cost efficient public policies.

Section 4 (c)(2) requires the Secretary to develop and implement policies to protect and ensure the privacy, confidentiality and administrative value of data collected and maintained by executive branch agencies.

4(d) requires that, in consultation with the state Chief Information Officer, the Secretary develop and implement a secure information technology solution to link data across executive agencies and develop and implement a detailed data security and safeguarding plan for the data accessed or shared through such solution.

Section 4 (g) sets forth the procedure for data sharing between executive branch agencies including execution of memorandum of agreements with each executive branch agency to govern data-sharing and protect the privacy and confidentiality of data shared between and among executive branch agency or agencies and the Office of Policy and Management. It also requires that the Secretary notify each executive branch agency when access to their data is requested.

I will turn this over to Mark Raymond but will remain to answer any questions you may have.